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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 03 ANKARA 000132

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DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL
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E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

MONDAY, JANUARY 10, 2005

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
THEMES:

HEADLINES
BRIEFING
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Palestine's New Hope, Mahmud Abbas - Sabah
Turkey and Syria Solve 66-Year-Old Hatay Problem - Hurriyet
Victory Belongs to Abbas in Palestine - Hurriyet
Turkish Troops to Take ISAF Command - Hurriyet
Pentagon to Create 'Death Squads' in Iraq - Milliyet
A New Plan for Cyprus - Milliyet
Turkish Businesses Landing in Moscow - Turkiye
A New Era in Palestine - Turkiye

OPINION MAKERS

Ambassador: "US-Turkey Agree on Iraq's Territorial
Integrity" - Zaman (1/8)
Erdogan Goes to Russia With 650 Businessmen - Radikal
Palestinians Voted for Their Future - Cumhuriyet
A New Plan For Cyprus From Europe - Cumhuriyet
Abbas is the New Leader of Palestine - Yeni Safak
Erdogan Sends Friendship Message to Putin - Zaman

BRIEFING

Ambassador Edelman Interviewed by Zaman: "Zaman" carried an
interview with Ambassador Edelman in two sections over the
weekend issues. During the interview, Edelman stressed that
Turkish press allegations claiming that the earthquake and
tsunami in South Asia were caused by US nuclear experiments

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are 'fabrications' that have greatly upset the United
states. The Ambassador also answered charges that US troops
used excessive force in the battle for Fallujah. He
highlighted that mosques damaged in the fighting had been
used as weapons storage facilities by Iraqi insurgents. The
Ambassador also stressed that the US shares Turkey's views
concerning Kirkuk and the need to preserve the territorial
integrity of Iraq. (NOTE: A full translation of the
Ambassador's "Zaman" interview is now in preparation and
will be distributed soon. END NOTE.)

Erdogan Goes to Russia: All papers report that PM Erdogan
will travel to Russia today for an official visit. Energy
issues, including the Blue Stream Project, the Samsun-Ceyhan
pipeline, and the passage of oil through the Turkish
Straits, will top the bilateral agenda. Cyprus and
cooperation in the fight against terrorism will also be
discussed. Erdogan is taking over 500 businessmen and more
than 90 journalists with him on the visit. The PM will meet
with President Putin on Tuesday, and open a Turkish Trade
Center in Moscow on Wednesday.

Turkey And Syria Solve Hatay Problem: "Hurriyet" reported
that Syria, by approving the trade agreements last month
during the visit to Damascus by Prime Minister Erdogan, has
accepted that the long-disputed Hatay province belongs to
Turkey. The agreement reportedly includes a provision that
provides recognition of Turkey's current borders.

New European Effort to Solve Cyprus: Cypriot Radio reported
that experts on the European Constitution are currently
developing a plan to resolve the Cyprus dispute. The new
proposal would be a European alternative to the Annan Plan,
and would mark the beginning of Brussels' active efforts to
reach a Cyprus solution.

Palestinian Elections: All papers and TV channels announce
the victory of Mahmud Abbas as the new leader of the
Palestinians. "Milliyet" claims that the Palestinians voted
in hopes for a cease-fire between Israel and Palestine.

EDITORIAL OPINION:

? Iraq
? Palestine Elections

"The US Ambassador Talks to Zaman"

Ekrem Dumanli commented in the Islamist-intellectual "Zaman" (1/8): "US Ambassador Edelman had two important documents in his hand when he arrived at our offices on Friday. The first was a press release on the tsunami disaster. The text noted that some news articles that appeared in some newspapers were "fabrications" and included "outrageous claims." Apparently, the Americans are extremely upset about allegations linking the earthquake and tsunami to US underground nuclear trials. The view that some countries were not informed about the earthquake in time was also addressed in the press release. A second thick folder in Edelman's hand concerned Fallujah. He presented information from a very different perspective about the incident in Fallujah that created so much intense criticism in the world media. The file included numerous photographs and visual images documenting the activities and weapons of some Iraqi groups. It was claimed that certain places - including some mosques - were used as weapons' storage facilities and contained some implements used in torture. . [During the interview] the questions were not raised in a way that would suggest anti-Americanism, but the policies of the US administration were questioned. As a matter of fact, this questioning is being done around the world -- especially in the American media. The general opinion is that if the US follows bad policies, it does harm not just to the US but to the entire world. It would be impossible not to be impressed by Mr. Edelman for his part in this brainstorming session. He answered all of our tough but polite questions one by one. He did not drop "off the record" into any of his answers. In a diplomatic way, he sometimes indicated he did not agree with us and clearly stated his views. He answered many questions covering many subjects; from a question on Kurds living in Iraq, to the danger of the spread of Anti-Americanism, to Turkey-US relations. . My impression was that the Ambassador is concerned by the spread of Anti-Americanism, particularly in the Islamic world -just like many Americans are. He is right. Neither the US nor the Islamic world benefits from this development. For this reason, such misunderstandings must be cleared up. That's why I think the meeting with Edelman is important. I wish that more such meetings could be held on a larger scale. Perhaps in this way, criticism could be relayed to officials more directly and statements from officials could receive wider coverage."

"Abbas, Sharon and Bush"

Yasemin Congar wrote in the mass appeal "Milliyet" (1/10): "According to US diplomats, Washington wants to see a determination from Abbas regarding the fight against terrorism. One of the criteria on this issue will be whether there are any figures with terrorist links in the new Palestinian cabinet. If Abbas tries to limit the influence of Islamic Jihad and Hamas, the US will act accordingly. This would entail allowing the use of financial aid for Palestine which was earlier suspended. The US wants to make sure that this money will not fall into the hands of terrorists. . Washington has already been working on a series of gestures toward Palestine in the event that Abbas shows leadership in controlling the violence and terrorist groups. These concrete measures would include steps to revive the security cooperation between Israel and Palestine, and a new security concept for the West Bank and Gaza. Egypt is expected to support this kind of process, which would lay the foundation for a cease-fire. Another step would be to support the Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, followed by a series of security and reconstruction efforts. The Bush administration might engage Secretary Rice directly on this issue as soon as the hearing and confirmation process is concluded. The appointment of a new Middle East envoy might be the next phase for Washington. It is also possible that Abbas will soon receive an invitation to the White House."

EDELMAN